GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:531
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
INDO-NEPAL TIES
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GUNIPATI RAMAIAH;RAJESH RANJAN (PAPPU YADAV);RAM JEEVAN SINGH;RAM SHAKAL;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following regicide in Nepal, Indo-Nepal relations have suffered a set back as exemplified by increase in anti-India sentiments and burning of Indian newspapers over there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto including the steps taken to safeguard the interests of Indians residing in Nepal ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) , (b) and (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 531 ANSWERED ON 25.07.2001 ON `INDO-NEPAL TIES`

In an unfortunate tragic incident, King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal along with some other members of the Royal Family of Nepal were shot dead on June 1, 2001. Crown Prince Dipendra, who was involved in the shoot out, also succumbed to his injuries and died on June 4, 2001. The younger brother of the Late King, Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, was pronounced King by the Royal Council of Nepal and enthroned on June 4, 2001.

Immediately after the unfortunate incident, Government of India released a statementwhich was read out by the External Affairs Minister on June 2. It stated that as a close neighbour and friend, India conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the mourning nation of the Kingdom of Nepal. A three day State mourning was also declared by the Government of India as a mark of respect. On the same day, the Indian Cabinet passed a Resolution at a specially convened emergency meeting. The President conveyed his condolences to the new King. The Prime Minister sent letters of condolence to the Queen Mother and the then PM Girija Prasad Koirala. While expressing condolences, confidence has been expressed that friendship and co-operation between the two countries would be further strengthened in the pursuit of peace and progress.

The events in Nepal were unfortunate, unexpected and tragic. The Nepalese people were shocked and grief stricken. The situation was volatile with the threat of public disturbances, including efforts by some vested interests, to use the tragedy to fan anti-Indian sentiments. However the situation was brought under control by the Government of Nepal which also set up a Committee to enquire into the tragedy and made public the report of the Enquiry Committee.

The bonds of friendship between India and Nepal are strong and are based on mutual understanding and trust. Our relations have withstood the test of time. Internal developments in one country will not be allowed by either side to adversely affect the other and relations between the two.